

# 2021 ECONOMIC REPORT SOUTHEAST REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

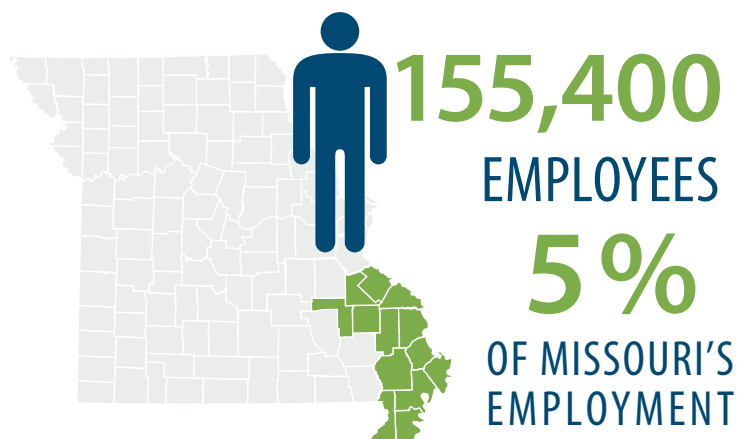
The Southeast Region workforce has more than 155,400 employees, making up 5 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 53 percent of the workforce was female and 47 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 51 percent female and 49 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 6 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 25 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 10 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 2 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Southeast Region, 3 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 18 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



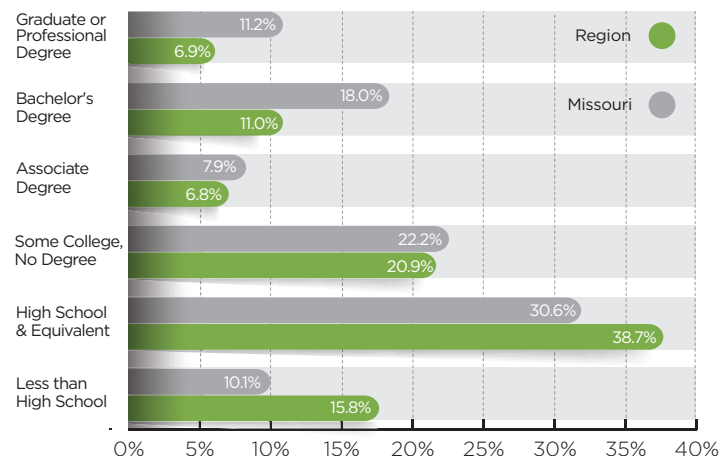
## Workforce Demographics

	SE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	155,477	2,867,162	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.0%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	53%	51%	50%
Male	47%	49%	50%
Non-White	10%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	2%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	25%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	18%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	18%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	25%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-five percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

## Educational Attainment



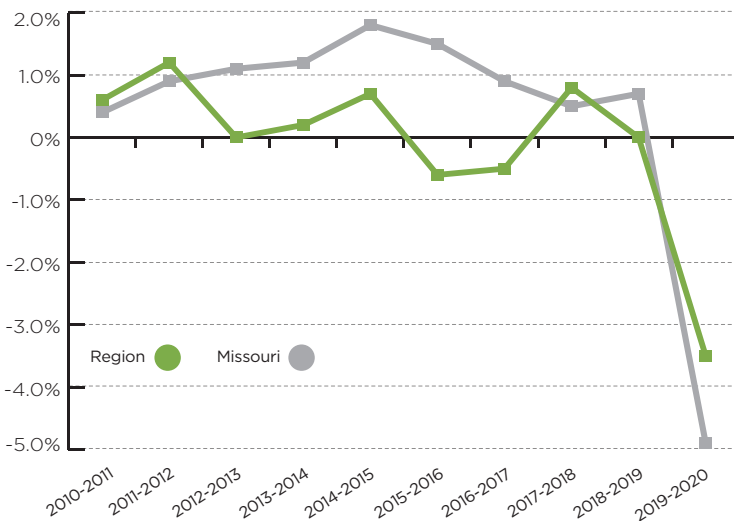
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

# SOUTHEAST REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 134,700 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 4,900 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.5 percent employment growth. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Southeast Region averaged a decrease of 0.8 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 3.2 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment lost 2.9 percent.

Southeast Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: MERC, QCEW

*Health Care and Social Assistance* continues to be the largest employing industry in the region, even though it lost employment in 2020 when compared to 2016. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry, followed by *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

Most of the industry sectors in the Southeast Region lost employment between 2016 and 2020, except *Finance and Insurance*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	30,752	30,577	-175	-0.1%	\$37,320
Manufacturing	18,244	18,171	-73	-0.1%	\$50,508
Retail Trade	16,595	15,300	-1,295	-2.0%	\$28,824
Accommodation & Food Services	10,292	9,798	-494	-1.2%	\$17,148
Public Administration	6,548	6,259	-289	-1.1%	\$32,412
Construction	6,288	6,238	-50	-0.2%	\$49,176
Wholesale Trade	5,986	5,685	-301	-1.3%	\$57,876
Transportation & Warehousing	5,381	4,990	-391	-1.9%	\$45,420
Finance and Insurance	3,743	4,099	356	2.3%	\$53,256
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	2,776	3,354	578	4.8%	\$56,496
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	3,115	2,997	-118	-1.0%	\$30,780
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,282	1,292	10	0.2%	n/a

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region has higher concentrations in *Mining*, *Gas Stations*, *Crop Production*, *Wood Product Manufacturing*, *Truck Transportation*, and *Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing*.



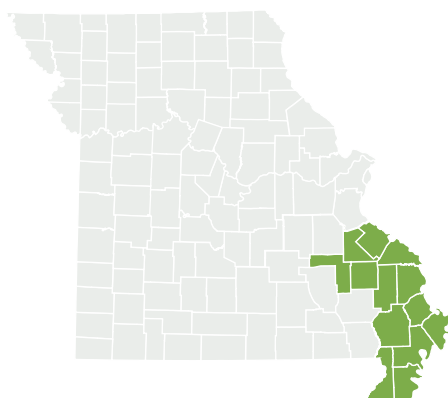
2020 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	820	7.6
Gasoline Stations	2,481	4.4
Crop Production	1,432	4.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	866	3.6
Truck Transportation	2,928	3.2
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	743	3.0
Social Assistance	6,829	2.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	5,498	2.6
Support Activities for Agriculture & Forestry	562	2.4
Health & Personal Care Stores	1,342	2.2
General Merchandise Stores	3,671	2.0
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,334	2.0
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,646	2.0
Telecommunications	761	1.8
Postal Service	637	1.7

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Southeast Region will be *Social Assistance, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Food Services and Drinking Places, Hospitals, and Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)*.



## Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	2018-2028 Numeric	2018-2028 Percent
Social Assistance	9,513	11,720	2,207	23.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	6,989	8,672	1,683	24.1%
Food Services & Drinking Places	10,434	11,335	901	8.6%
Hospitals	8,504	9,041	537	6.3%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	3,006	3,379	373	12.4%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,028	3,287	259	8.6%
Truck Transportation	2,798	3,040	242	8.6%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	952	1,179	227	23.8%
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	1,618	1,819	201	12.4%
Construction of Buildings	1,585	1,754	169	10.7%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Personal Care Aides, Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, and Cashiers* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Physical Therapist Aides, and Home Health Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Physical Therapist Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, and Veterinary Technologists and Technicians* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Physician Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Nurse Practitioners* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

## Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

# SOUTHEAST REGION

## Southeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Personal Care Aides	7,239	9,649	2,410	624	553	1,418	\$21,311 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	4,926	5,546	620	418	515	995	\$18,827 ★
Cashiers	4,580	4,445	-135	403	448	837	\$19,195 ★
Retail Salespersons	4,435	4,243	-192	249	384	614	\$21,937 ★
Farmworkers and Laborers	2,571	2,546	-25	102	316	416	\$34,386
<b>NEXT</b>							
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,739	3,963	224	158	279	459	\$40,188 ★
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	4,306	3,859	-447	209	248	412	\$28,829 ★
Nursing Assistants	2,691	2,840	149	149	161	325	\$22,432 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,264	1,481	217	73	121	216	\$21,218
Supervisors of Food Prep and Serving Workers	1,149	1,226	77	52	130	190	\$25,852
<b>LATER</b>							
Registered Nurses	3,568	3,958	390	104	96	239	\$56,132 ★
General and Operations Managers	2,207	2,272	65	47	148	201	\$65,177 ★
Accountants and Auditors	1,074	1,150	76	31	72	111	\$48,307 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,643	1,586	-57	45	68	107	\$42,712
Elementary School Teachers	1,319	1,269	-50	40	55	90	\$44,247

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

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For more information, visit  
[meric.mo.gov](http://meric.mo.gov) or [dhewd.mo.gov](http://dhewd.mo.gov)



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

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